

News Release



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Environment

World Day for Water 2008

The water supply in the Maltese Islands is provided by pumping stations, boreholes, springs, and by desalination operations. This news release will focus on the water production and consumption of Malta. Tables 1 to 3 show the water production and consumption trends for the islands from the year 1997 till 2007.

Theme:
Environment and Energy

Table 1 shows that on average from 2002 to 2007, 45.12 per cent of all water production in Malta came from groundwater, whilst 54.88 per cent was generated by desalination plants. Throughout the period under review these percentages fluctuated from one year to the other, although desalinated water always constituted the major share of water produced. From 2002 to 2006 water production from groundwater decreased by an average of 5.39 per cent per annum, whilst from 2006 to 2007 production from this source increased by 6.88 per cent. On the other hand production by desalination plants showed a fluctuating trend which on average translates into a marginal decrease of 0.72 per cent per annum. If one considers the total amount of water produced during these years, this decreased by an average of 1.85 per cent per annum.

Chart 1 shows that water production and supply patterns follow each other very closely in Malta. Thus the amount of end-of-year water reserves is fairly stable from one year to another and amounts to about 300,000 cubic metres of water each year. Due to this proximity in production and supply, the end-of-year water reserves, on average amount to just 0.9 per cent of the water produced annually. On the other hand Chart 2 compares the water production sources and shows that from 1997 to 2007, water production has decreased. This decrease was not linear since in various years both sources registered an increase in production, however such increases were not sufficient to offset the overall decrease which was registered. It is interesting to note that 2000 was the only year in which groundwater production surpassed that of desalinated water.

Table 2 and Chart 3 relate to the amount of water which is lost through leakages in the distribution network. From 2002 to 2007 this amount has decreased every year at varying rates, with the only exception being from 2002 to 2003, when leakage increased by 6.04 per cent. Throughout the period under review, leakage has been reduced by an average of 10.92 per cent per annum, so that by 2007, it was almost halved from the maximum it had reached in 2003.

Statistics show that for the year 2007, the highest contributor to the water supply was from the reverse osmosis plants. Table 3 shows that water production from this desalination technology was 10 percent higher than the groundwater production. Such water production amounted to 17 million cubic metres. It is interesting to note that during the month of February the water supply from the groundwater resources was slightly higher than that of the desalination process ■

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Table 1. Water production and supply: 1997-2007 (million cubic metres)

Year	Groundwater Production	Desalinated Water Production	Total Yearly Water Production	Water Supply in the Distribution Network	End of Year Reserves
2002	16,313,167	17,734,790	34,047,957	34,039,412	306,032
2003	15,196,203	18,969,489	34,165,692	34,193,511	282,080
2004	14,886,796	17,894,583	32,781,379	32,791,135	272,324
2005	13,994,560	17,049,042	31,043,602	31,033,785	282,124
2006	13,059,358	17,469,049	30,528,407	30,475,397	335,334
2007	13,957,572	17,007,429	30,815,285	30,799,533	351,542

Source: Water Services Corporation.

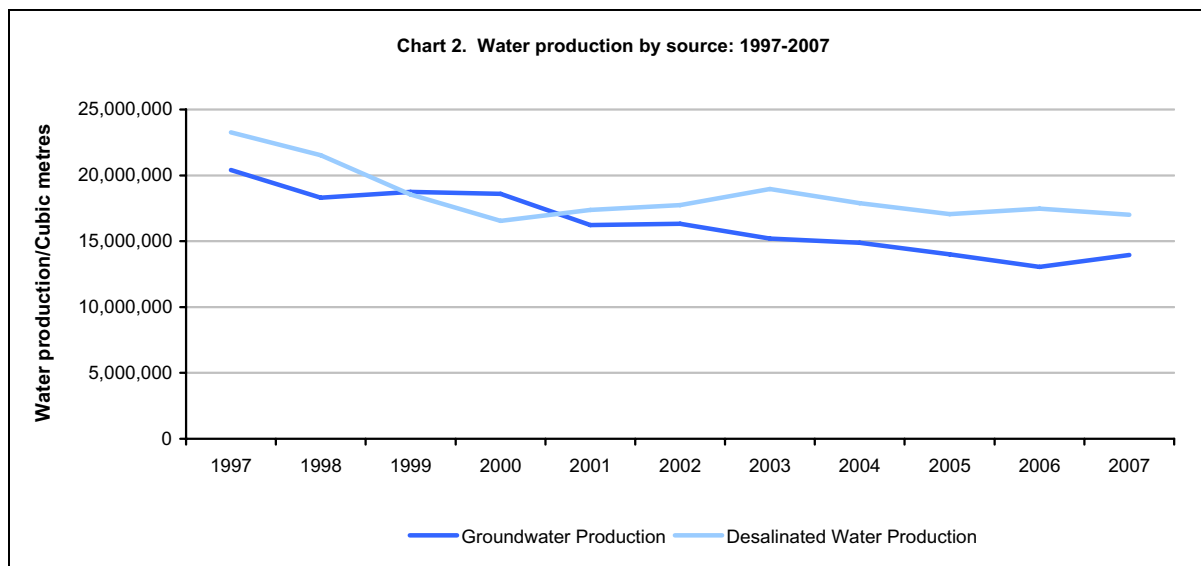
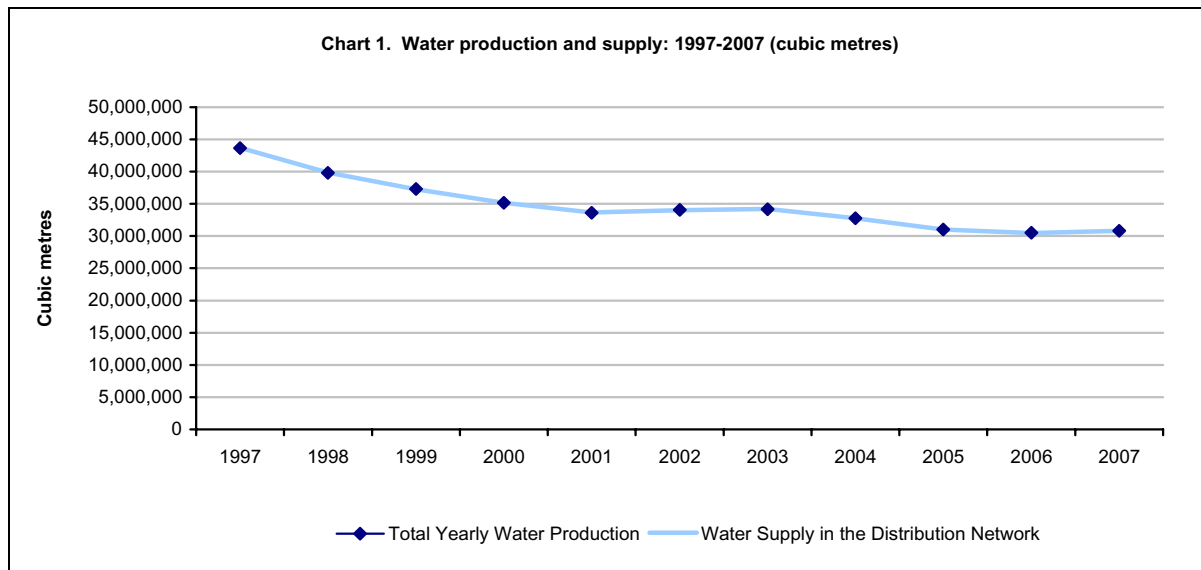


Table 2. Water leakages from the distribution network: 2002-2007 (cubic metres)

Year	Leakage		
	Malta	Gozo	Total
2002	9,975,989	416,100	10,392,089
2003	10,603,497	416,100	11,019,597
2004	8,053,887	417,240	8,471,127
2005	6,695,605	416,100	7,111,705
2006	5,189,444	416,100	5,605,544
2007	5,160,048	429,524	5,589,572

Source: Water Services Corporation

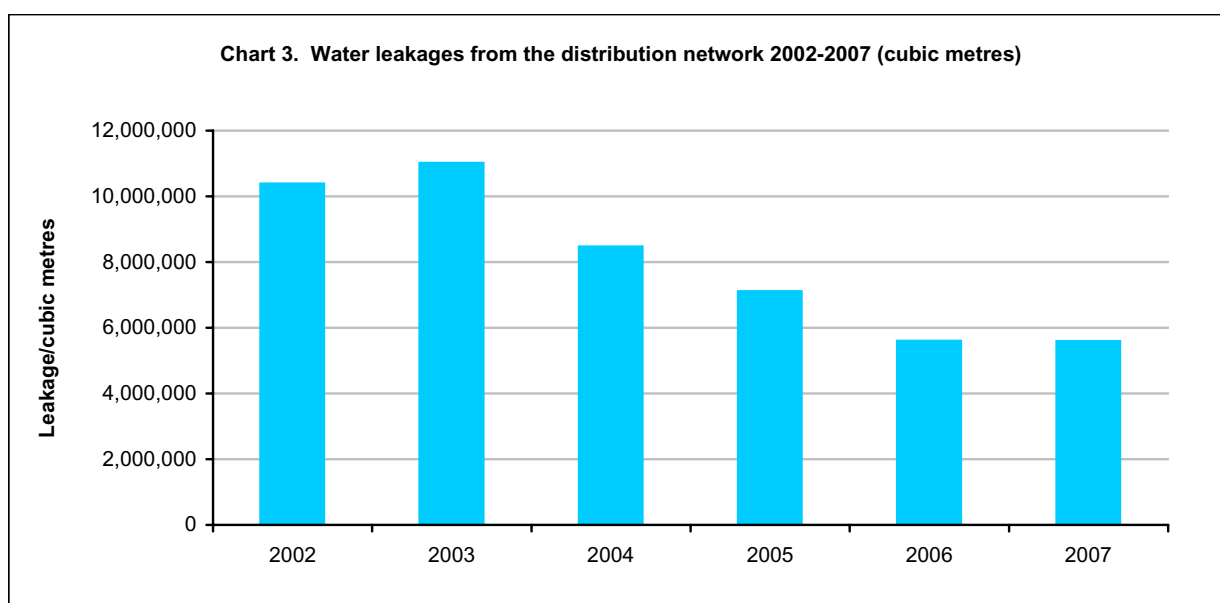


Table 3. Monthly water production and consumption for the year 2007 (cubic meters)

Month	Groundwater Production	Reverse Osmosis Production	Total Monthly Production	Consumption
January	1,127,240	1,339,326	2,466,566	2,457,664
February	1,149,237	1,099,305	2,248,542	2,219,884
March	1,144,601	1,259,021	2,403,622	2,397,820
April	1,175,987	1,260,300	2,436,287	2,402,970
May	1,223,267	1,351,982	2,575,249	2,585,733
June	1,129,044	1,449,871	2,578,915	2,571,690
July	1,211,917	1,670,713	2,882,630	2,857,141
August	1,264,865	1,659,716	2,924,581	2,937,739
September	1,062,241	1,652,467	2,714,708	2,715,719
October	1,139,140	1,529,869	2,669,009	2,656,672
November	1,146,131	1,378,909	2,525,040	2,492,862
December	1,183,903	1,355,950	2,539,853	2,503,639
Total	13,957,572	17,007,429	30,965,001	30,799,533

Source: Water Services Corporation

